



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Veterans Benefits Administration**  
**Washington, D.C. 20420**

August 28, 2013

Director (00/21)  
All VA Regional Offices

In Reply Refer To: 21  
Fast Letter 13-21

SUBJ: Discontinued Retained Jurisdiction

**Purpose**

This letter provides new guidance regarding jurisdiction of Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) claims. This guidance supersedes the directions provided on page 11 of the enclosure to Fast Letter 08-21, Paperless Processing Procedures for BDD, and page 6 of Fast letter 08-20, Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Expansion and Pre-Discharge Claims Consolidation.

**Background**

A BDD claim for disability compensation can be accepted from any Servicemember at any intake site prior to separation from active duty if the Servicemember is within 180 days to 60 days of discharge. A BDD Rating Activity Site (RAS) has primary responsibility for rating, award, and notification actions on original and reopened claims received from BDD intake sites. Working in cooperation with its corresponding intake sites, the RAS facilitates expeditious handling of BDD claims. After completion of the pre-discharge claim, jurisdiction of subsequent claims (rating and non-rating) and appeals was previously retained and assigned to the co-located Veterans Service Center (VSC) of the RAS of jurisdiction because not all regional offices (ROs) could work in the paperless system.

As of June 10, 2013, the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) has been deployed to all ROs, which enables nationwide distribution and electronic processing of subsequent claims and appeals established following completion of the BDD claim. Additionally, all ROs and VA medical centers have the ability to access and review any claims-related records stored electronically in Virtual VA.

**Discontinuance of Retained Jurisdiction**

Effective the date of this letter, regardless of the date of claim, there is no retained jurisdiction at the co-located Veterans Service Center (VSC) of the RAS for any subsequent rating claim, non-rating claim or appeal filed following the completion of the BDD claim. Upon completion of the BDD claim and/or any concurrently pending claims or appeals, the RAS will permanently transfer jurisdiction electronically in the Control of Veterans Records Systems (COVERS) to the RO of jurisdiction (ROJ). The ROJ will be responsible for handling all subsequent rating and non-rating claims, appeals, Inquiry Routing and Information System, Congressional, White House and SecVA inquiries, and any other actions related to the claim.

Claims brokered from the RAS to a Day One Brokering Center (D1BC) must be placed under end product control prior to transfer. Once the claim is established, the RAS will permanently transfer jurisdiction of the file in COVERS to the D1BC. Claims brokered to a D1BC will remain in the D1BC's inventory until fully completed. Upon completion of the claim, the D1BC will permanently transfer jurisdiction of the file to the ROJ. The ROJ will be responsible for handling all subsequent rating and non-rating claims, appeals, and other actions related to the claim.

This guidance applies to previously completed Paperless Claims Processing (PLCP) claims in Virtual VA and BDD claims in VBMS. There is no retained jurisdiction for Quick Start claims processed at the Claims Processing Site (CPS). For additional information on transferring VBMS Claims, please refer to the [VBMS TIP sheet](#) titled "Transferring Out VBMS Claims."

## Procedures

If there is:	Then:
A BDD claim with pending deferred issues, to include new issues received while the BDD claim is pending	The station in possession of the claim (i.e., the RAS or the D1BC) works the claim to completion. After completing the claim, the station will transfer jurisdiction of the file to the ROJ.
A pending subsequent (non-BDD) rating claim, non-rating claim or appeal	The station in possession of the claim or appeal [i.e., the co-located Veterans Service Center (VSC) of the RAS or the D1BC] works the claim or appeal to completion. After completing the claim or appeal, the station will transfer jurisdiction of the file to the ROJ. If the ROJ is already in possession of the claim, the ROJ will work the claim or appeal to completion.
A new subsequent (non-BDD) rating claim, non-rating claim or appeal	The station in possession of the file will transfer jurisdiction of the file to the ROJ. The ROJ will work the claim or appeal to completion.
A pending sensitive <sup>1</sup> subsequent rating claim or non-rating claim	The station in possession of the claim will work the claim to completion. After completing the claim, the station will transfer jurisdiction of the file to the appropriate Restricted Access Claim Center (RACC) <sup>2</sup> , which will retain it while it is a sensitive file.
A new sensitive <sup>1</sup> subsequent rating claim or non-rating claim	The station in possession of the file will transfer jurisdiction of the file to the appropriate RACC <sup>2</sup> . The RACC will work the claim to completion and retain it while it is a sensitive file.

If there is:	Then:
A pending sensitive <sup>1</sup> appeal	The station in possession of the appeal will work the appeal to completion. After completing the appeal, the station will transfer jurisdiction of the file to the appropriate RACC <sup>2</sup> , which will retain it while it is a sensitive file.
A new sensitive <sup>1</sup> appeal	The station in possession of the appeal will transfer jurisdiction of the appeal to the appropriate RACC <sup>2</sup> . The RACC will work the appeal to completion and retain it while it is a sensitive file.

<sup>1</sup>Only sensitive files belonging to current and former VBA employees, relatives of VBA employees, Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), and high government officials should be transferred to the RACC. Sensitive files belonging to Veterans Health Administration (VHA) employees, National Cemetery Administration (NCA) employees, attorney fee cases, and cases deemed sensitive due to media issues should be maintained at the local ROJ.

<sup>2</sup>The St. Paul Regional Office is the primary RACC; Milwaukee and Philadelphia Regional Offices serve as RACCs as well.

NOTE: All paper claims folders, both sensitive and non-sensitive, will remain at the RAS or vendor storage site as appropriate until the file can be decommissioned.

### Questions

Questions or comments should be sent to [Predischarge.VBACO@va.gov](mailto:Predischarge.VBACO@va.gov).

/S/  
Thomas J. Murphy  
Director  
Compensation Service

Attachment  
Discontinuance of Retained Jurisdiction Workflow Diagram

